



CITY OF BULAWAYO

THE END OF YEAR REPORT BY HIS WORSHIP SOLOMON MGUNI THE MAYOR OF THE CITY OF BULAWAYO.

INTRODUCTION

We have come to the end of a challenging year for the City of Bulawayo. Despite these threats, we thank the Almighty God that we have survived the hurdles and we also appreciate your partnership in ensuring that Bulawayo continues to strive towards our vision of a Smart City Status by 2024.

FINANCIAL SERVICES

The City of Bulawayo 2022 Budget was approved in February 2022 and this was a great improvement which allowed us to start the service delivery process early in the year. The ZWL \$23.8 billion budget was made up of the Revenue Budget of ZWL \$15.9 billion and Capital Budget of ZWL \$7.9 billion.

During the year under review, the prevailing economic conditions such as the exchange rate volatility and increases in the prices of key service delivery inputs affected Council's service delivery mandate. As a result, Council with effect from June 2022 started indexing all tariffs and charges against the stable US Dollar at the ruling interbank rate. Ratepayers however, continued to receive Zimbabwe dollar bills and can still choose either to pay in foreign currency or local currency.

Recipients of Council services, which is Government, Industry, Commerce and Domestic consumers continue to default in the payment for services, leading to challenges in sourcing service delivery inputs thereby affecting the level of service delivery in the city. The total debt as at 30 November 2022 stood at ZWL 31.4 billion. Consumers are encouraged to pay bills on time and make payment arrangements whenever they are unable to pay by due date.

Cash flow challenges hindered Council from paying its trade creditors on time thereby negatively affecting relations with suppliers. Failure to pay suppliers within 30 days has seen an increase of suppliers who are now demanding cash up front. As a result, stock levels of critical input materials are low as some suppliers are refusing to provide these on credit.

Council continues to strive to minimize inconveniences to its valued suppliers and other creditors, by sharing the limited cash resources.

Due to the current economic environment the City's finances are not healthy and negatively affect the performance of the organisation. Strategies to reduce the high figure of debtors so as increase cash inflows are being vigorously pursued in an effort to improve service delivery.

In line with the Smart City concept, Council incorporated a number of online payment platforms with various service providers for the convenience of the citizens and ratepayers. These platforms are accessible 24 hours a day. Rate payers can also register to access details of their accounts and their balances at the comfort of their homes through Council's online e-registration platform. Regrettably, uptake of these platforms has been low as evidenced by perennial queues at the Revenue Hall. The Revenue Hall now opens at 7.00am from Monday to Friday in order to bring convenience to customers who would want to pay their bills before going to their various work stations.

Council has progressively made great strides in Information and Communication Technology and the Council's website is now responsive and can be accessed with ease. Further services are planned for accessing online such as uploading your meter readings in the near future.

The City of Bulawayo installed solar system at the Revenue Hall which has assisted in ensuring that computer servers are not affected by any power outages. Plans are underway to connect the entire Revenue Hall to green energy.

The City continues to implement strategies for the improvement of Information Communication Technology (ICT) and hope to adopt some Local Authority Digital System (LADS) modules, as expected by the Ministry of Local Government and Public Works.

CHAMBER SECRETARY

Emergency Services

For the period January to November 2022, the City responded to 528 fire calls. This was a marked decline of 18% from the corresponding period in the previous year's 645 calls. Of concern is the increase in property fires from last year's 102 to the current year's 117. This can be attributed to increased power load-shedding as a reasonably high number of such fires resulted from electrical appliances that were left on and unattended and the use of alternative lighting means such as candles during periods of load-shedding. Property worth RTGS\$494 276 900.00 was lost to fires. Two fire related fatalities were unfortunately recorded during the period under review. One of the deceased was a fire-man who succumbed to burns he sustained whilst fighting a veld fire. Council extends its condolences to the bereaved families for the untimely death.

Over the same period, the Brigade attended to 159 special calls. These are non-fire related calls and they include cases such as road traffic accidents, trapped persons/animals, amongst others.

The Brigade embarked on a massive fire awareness campaign programme throughout the city. This was to empower citizens to prevent fires from starting in the first place. Coupled with controlled burn-off to pre-empt grass fires, the campaigns yielded results in the reduction of other categories of fire.

The three main causes of fire outbreaks were recorded as carelessly discarded lit material (75%), deliberate fire setting/arson (15%) and others (10%). Over this period, the Brigade recorded 34 false alarms, an increase from the previous year's 24. It is worrying that a fair share of these calls was of a malicious intent. When scarce resources respond to a malicious false call, there may be delays in attending to a deserving call coming at the same time.

The period under review saw a massive departure of experienced firemen for greener pastures. Eleven resignations were recorded, making it a resignation each month. Besides robbing the function of experienced personnel, this is a big dent in the Brigade's service as such departures leave a gap in the mentoring of the newly qualified fire-men/women.

The vandalism of fire hydrants by members of the public is cause for concern. To ensure that the hydrants are usable, the Brigade has put in place an inspection programme so that the vandalised equipment is repaired and usable. This is a further strain on the already outstretched resources. Related to this is the current water-shedding programme which has affected fire hydrants that are without water for long periods.

In times of fire incidences, the public is encouraged to call the Brigade without delay. Generally, people attempt to extinguish fires on their own and only call the Brigade when they fail to. Valuable time would have been lost by the time the call is made.

Despite running an average daily fleet of no more than six ambulances, the Emergency Medical Services conveyed a total of 15166 patients to medical institutions during the period under review. With the assistance of funding from a development partner, the ambulances are now fitted with patient monitors that bring them to basic international standards of pre-hospital care. Funding from the same donor is committed to the repair of a decommissioned ambulance and this will increase the fleet by at least one more ambulance.

Vending and Traffic Control

The year under review has seen the increased illegal occupation of 5th Avenue by vendors who have become so daring to the extent that they have responded violently to lawful attempts to remove them. The 5th Avenue vendors appear to have given an impetus to other illegal vending

activities that are sprouting throughout the Central Business District. This has led to valid complaints from licence paying businesses as some vendors sell, from the former's pavements, items in direct competition to those sold in the shops. Despite assaults from the illegal vendors, Council security personnel continue to police the streets to curtail the illegal activities. Council also continues to engage state security to assist in managing this environment which is very explosive and highly polarised.

During the period under review, George Silundika Street between 4th and 6th Avenues was invaded by trucks that were selling farm produce. A joint operation between Council and the Zimbabwe Republic Police (ZRP) evicted them from the area.

ENGINEERING SERVICES

ROADS

State of Roads Overview

Based on the 2016 Road Condition survey more than 75% of the City's Road network (2400km) has outlived its economic life and requires urgent rehabilitation works, approximately US\$700 million to bring the network to good condition. The current state of the road network is due to deferred maintenance programs which are attributed to funding constraints.

The Council's plan is to increase roads in good condition by 15% (360 km) in the next 5 years, and a minimum level of investment of US\$15 million per annum is required.

Currently road maintenance allocation levels per year are approximately US\$1.2million (ZINARA) and US\$0.5million (BCC). This translates to (US\$1.7million) 11% of the City's road maintenance needs which is well below the annual road maintenance requirements. This means that the city would not be able to ever catch up with the road maintenance needs/ requirements.

The City's Road implementation strategy for the year 2022 was to focus on existing road network to try and address safety concerns, preserve those roads in fair condition and keep City's roads trafficable through the following interventions:

- Premix overlay works;
- Reseal works;
- Reconstruction; and
- Road Markings

Rehabilitation prioritization on the road network was such that maintenance programmes would earmark public transport routes, arterials, major collector roads, roads leading to institutions and

the CBD and finally local streets. Local streets maintenance, mainly road re-grading and re-gravelling, was to be outsourced at levels dependent on availability of funds.

2022 ERRP2 and IGFTs Utilisation Review

Table 1: Shows Summary of allocations, disbursements and utilisations.

FundingZWL	Works	Expenditureto dateZWL	Remarks
ERRP2 338,232,414	Periodic ZWL236,762,690	166,151,966	Resealed two roads: (i) Madibheni road (1.7km); and (ii) Nketa drive (1.1km). Overlaid Woodville Road (400m).
	Routine ZWL101,469,724	85,465,076	Utilized to cover payments for hire of batching plant, patching, overlay works, markings and traffic sign materials.
	Sub-total 1	251,617,042	Outstanding disbursement ZWL216,615,373
IGFTs 1,348,383,000	Road works ZWL316,451,000		Re-gravelling and Reseals works. Funds committed 100% of the allocation. Awaiting payments to Contractors.
	Plant and Equipment ZWL843,000,000	Procurement process ongoing.	Funds committed 100% of the allocation. Procurement process.
	Fire & Ambulances ZWL121,615,797	121,615,797	MLGPW advised that payment was made during the period April to July.
	Water & Sewerage ZWL128,932,000	160,455,163	Colbro Sewer Outfall upgrade: 100% complete

	Electro-mechanical	3,453,630.52	Procurement of street lighting materials
	Sub-total 2	285,524,591	

2022 Achievements: The rehabilitated roads since the inception of the ERRP2 and the outstanding ones are contained in Appendix 1, above. The year was characterized by the delay in payments, and unavailability of road repair materials. This was further compounded by the obsolete plant and equipment which was constantly down thereby adversely affecting both the planned and routine maintenance programmes. The **2022** achievements are summarized below:

Table 2: Roads Works

Item	Description	Target	Achievements	Remarks
1.0	Resealing	21.2km	2.8km	Emadibheni Road (Entumbane) and Nketa drive (West Commonage)
2.0	Overlays	10.2km	0.4km	Woodville Park road.
3.0	Regravelling	30km	7.4km	Lot 2 comprising wards 17, 20, 22 and 27
4.0	Drain cleaning Median cleaning	150km 48km	110km 11.4km	City wide in partnership with the community. BCC – carried out the works.
5.0	Pothole patching	27000m ²	4785m ²	City wide by Council teams. Community groups failed to work due to funding constraints.
6.0	Road Marking	60km	12.0	Masiyephambilidr, Cecil Ave, Khamird, Emadibhenidr, Nketadr, Frere rd, RGM way and Parirenyatwa street.
7.0	Parking Bays (CBD)	7200	3422	Implement of the Parking Management project. Ongoing works

Table 1.3b Servicing Works

Below are servicing works for the year

Developer	Project	Commission Date
Natwecraft Investments	Emganwini High Density	20 th of May 2022

(Pvt) Ltd	Residential Stands (114 stands)	
TCI International (Pvt) Ltd	Emganwini High Density Residential Stands (267 stands)	15 th of July 2022.
Aggregate Properties (Pvt) Ltd	Cowdray Park High Density Residential Stands (151 stands)	70% complete

2022 Devolution Funds

- (i) Total Allocation: **ZWL1,348,383,000**
- (ii) Total Disbursement: **ZWL176,200,000** (excluding **ZWL121,615,797** deducted for fire tenders).
- (iii) Procurement of Plant and Equipment is ongoing.

2.0 Roads that were taken over by the Government and their Status

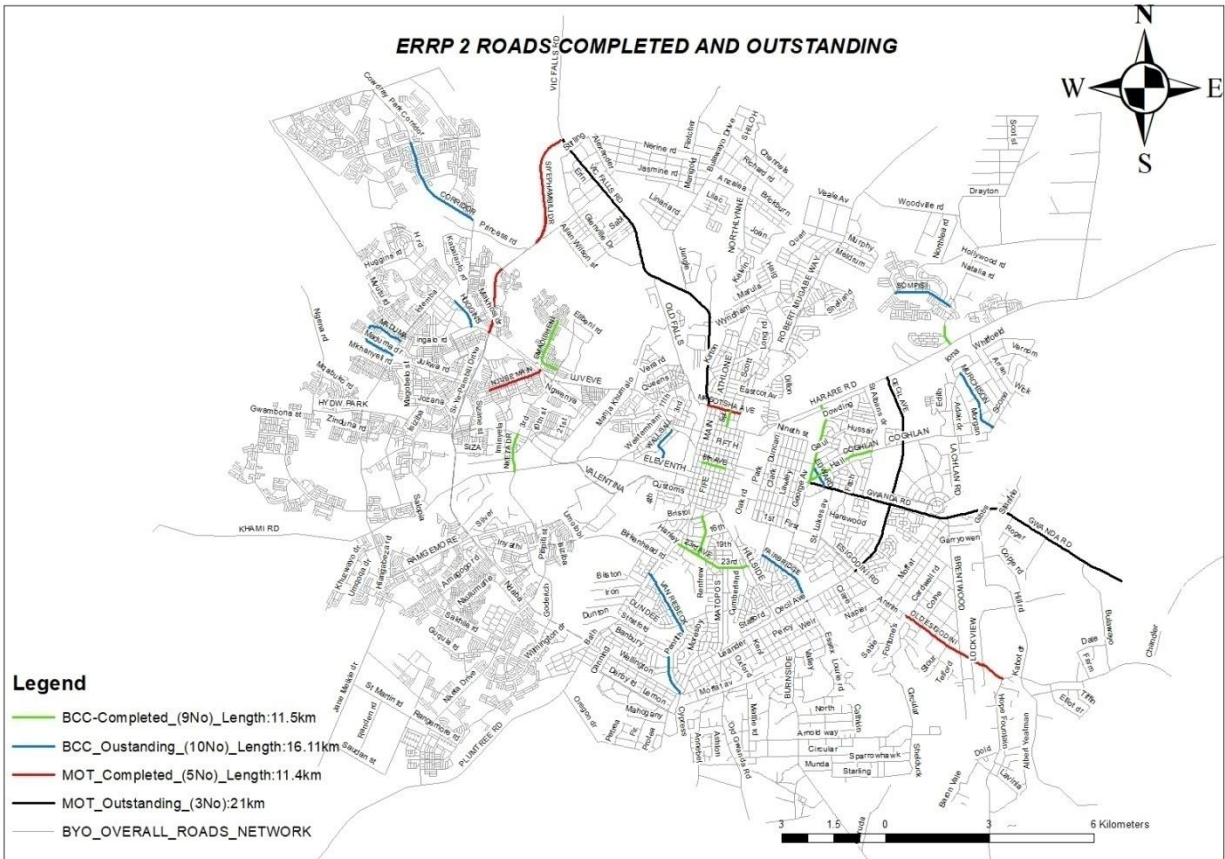
ITEM No.	NAME OF ROAD	APPROX LENGTH(km)	STATUS
1	Fife Street	2.7	15%
2	Masiyephambili Drive	6.5	100%
3	Matopos Road	3.0	0%
4	Nketa Drive	2.1	50%
5	Njube Main Road	1.5	100%
6	Leopold Takawira	7.8	0%
7	Old Khami Road	5.3	0%
8	Khami Road	5.2	0%
9	Plumtree Road	2.8	0%
10	12 th Avenue Extension	7.0	60%
11	Intemba Road	10.0	0%
12	Luveve Road	6.7	0%
13	Mqabuko Road	1.2	0%
14	Masotsha Avenue	1.2	100%
15	Lobengula Street	1.1	0%
16	Cecil Avenue	6.0	0%
17	Victoria Falls Road	9.0	0%
18	Gwanda Road	9.0	0%
	Total	88.1km	

Challenges / Constraints

- Delays in payment to contractors resulting in contractors pulling out and abandoning sites;
- Sole supplier for asphalt concrete (premix) in the southern region of the country resulting in price escalation due to high demand for premix and delays in completing works;
- Some suppliers require upfront payment which necessitated re-doing the Procurement process as this is contrary to the provisions of the Procurement Act.
- Delay by supplier(s) of bituminous materials attributing the delays to the immigration formalities at the border post; and
- Lack of RTGS fuel available in the market. If it's available the quoted price is above the ZERA stipulated prices.

2023 Strategies

- i) To reduce road accidents by 5% by December 2023.
- ii) To increase the roads in good condition by 1.5% by December 2023.
- iii) To reduce plant and equipment down time by 3% by December 2023.
- iv) To increase the City's lighting levels by 10% by December 2023.



WATER

The effects of climate change are being felt in the country as we continue to face droughts and poor rainfall. We are however hopeful that this year's rain season will be bountiful. Provision of water is currently erratic and is worsened by the electricity challenges which are affecting pumping and water treatment. The City regrets the inconvenience caused. Stakeholders are requested to please bear with us and we promise to do everything in our power to minimise the problem. Engagement of relevant stakeholders is ongoing.

Below are the projects that were funded by donors

Donor Funded Projects	Works	Expenditure to date US\$	Remarks
GIZ & WHH (Welt Hunger Hilfe)	US\$50,000.00	\$35 000.00	i) Mpopoma and Mzilikazi water reticulation renewal

Waterworx	US\$68,906.00		i) Hlalanikuhle Sewer connection
Africa Ahead/UNIC EF& AFDB	US\$100,000.00	US\$100,000.00	i) 305 water service connection renewed ii) 200 water meters installed iii) 600m of 160mm PVC pipe laid
Africa Ahead/UNIC EF& SVERIGE	US\$140,113.00	US\$140,113.00	i) 400 water service connections renewed ii) 300 water meters installed
Africa Ahead/UNIC EF& SVERIGE	US\$99,984.00	US\$99,984.00	i) Laying of 1km of 400mm SDR51 PVC pipe in Makokoba Suburb from 11 th Street to St Columba's

The following laboratory Services were carried out

Developer	Project	Commission Date
BHE Technical Services under Waterworx Funding	Bought UV-Visible Spectrophotometer for water testing@ US\$20,000.00	19 th of October 2022
Snap Tactix Consulting under Waterworx Funding	ISO 17025 Training for Laboratory Project Implementation Team @ US\$2,200.00	13-16 September 2022

It is noted that 90% of projects that were done in 2022 were donor funded.

HEALTH SERVICES

The provision of health services in the City of Bulawayo was hit by an exodus of Registered General Nurses. A total of 25 resigned from January to November 2022. This negatively affects service delivery at the health centres.

The 19 clinics attended to 832 092 patients, of those 522 064 were new attendances and 310 028 repeat visits from January to October 2022. The City held several programmes as part of the National Programmes which included Expanded Programme of Immunisation (EPI) (Pentavalent 3 coverage, Measles /Rubella coverage, Measles SIA, Oral Polio 1 and 2 SIA, COVID 19 Dose 1, Dose 2 and Dose among others. The City continues in its endeavour of controlling the spread of diseases through safe and sound Solid Waste Management. Bulawayo is facing a major challenge which is a result of the proliferation of illegal activities such as dumping, proliferation of Illegal vending activities resulting in high generation of waste and all these are compounded by the shortage of refuse compactors to cover the whole city. The City of Bulawayo desires to revert to its history of being a clean city. We note that we can only achieve this if we work together with the residents and stakeholders of the City of Bulawayo.

HOUSING AND COMMUNITY SERVICES

The National target for housing in the National Development Strategy (NDS 1) is delivery of 220 000 housing units and the Provincial target is to provide 3000 stands per year. The City of Bulawayo allocated a total of 498 stands. The breakdown for the stands was as follows:

- **Stands allocated to individuals under Presale Scheme**

Pumula South	117
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- **Stands allocated to individuals under Private Developers Scheme**

T.C.I International	Emganwini	267
Natware Craft	Emganwini	114

A total of 1680 stands were allocated to the Private Developers for servicing and are yet to be allocated to beneficiaries upon completion of servicing. These ongoing projects are as follows:

Enoch Construction	Mahatshula East	670
TIC International	Emganwini	118
Heaven View	R/E of Emganwini	439
Natware Craft	Luveve	453

The developers entered into service agreements with Council where they are expected to service the stands which are then sold to beneficiaries on the waiting list after completion of servicing.

A total of 3 366 plans valued at USD65 889 368 were submitted whilst a total of 2 293 plans valued at USD58 082 379 were approved during the period under consideration. The Building

Inspectorate Section attended to 23 757 inspections. These included 17 713 routine and 6 044 mandatory inspections which attracted USD90 664 inspection fees. A total of 317 properties were issued with occupational certificates.

The construction of 23 Early Childhood Development Blocks which are at different stages of completion continued during the year 2022. Construction of Vulindlela Primary School through devolution funding is going on well. The third (3rd) Classroom Block has been completed and now functional, while the 4th Classroom Block is 40% complete. The procurement of materials for the 5th Classroom Block is in progress.

The COVID 19 pandemic emphasised good hand washing hygiene and subsequently hand washing structures were constructed at Mkhithika Thebe, Nketa, Mahlathini and Tategulu Primary schools and these have been completed through the support of Ministry of Primary and Secondary Education and the United Nations International Children's Emergency Fund (UNICEF).

To improve literacy, a total of four (4) more reading Hubs and twenty (20) more schools were added to the Inspiring Readers School Library Project.

The City of Bulawayo values social support infrastructure and constructed Youth Factory Shells in the Pumula suburb to help upcoming vocational students of different trades. This was in partnership with World Vision. The incubators comprises of six shells with a canteen and ablutions and are at 90% completion with few works left to make them ready for use. The City further constructed five (5) Iminyela bathrooms which are almost complete. The recent completion of refurbishment of Jabulani Flats has played a great role in improving living conditions of the occupants. The flats were revamped and made habitable and safe for residents.

The City also continued in the refurbishment of the Thorngrove Hospital through government Devolution Funding. The hospital was refurbished to accommodate Covid-19 patients and to help them recover in a clean and well equipped environment. The refurbishment of ancillary facilities such as the kitchen and laundry are still work in progress.

Three public toilets in Mzilikazi, Machipsini and Dugmore were recently refurbished with the help of partners to improve access to usable amenities for the residents.

As part of youth empowerment and in line with the City's Youth Policy, a total of 1347(816 females and 531 males) youths were enrolled under the Vocational Training Programme. The students were enrolled in disciplines such as building, art, carpentry and joinery, agriculture, dressmaking, cutting and designing, hotel and catering, motor mechanics, painting, plumbing and drain laying and metal fabrication. This year a total of 250 vocational trainees graduated after completing their three year courses.

Four hundred and eighty-eight (488) underprivileged secondary school students from thirty-seven (37) schools were awarded with bursaries. Out of the 488 students there were 262 females and 226 were males. The Bursary Scheme is meant to provide equity in education thereby equalizing opportunities for all despite different backgrounds.

A total of three hundred and five (305) women were capacitated with handcraft skills at Bulawayo Home Industries. The women were drawn from across the City. The objectives of handcraft skills training are to empower less privileged women so that they earn some livelihood through craft production. In addition, 8006 expectant and vulnerable women were assessed and enrolled into the Results Based Finance programme and accessed free maternal services courtesy of the Catholic Organization for Relief and Development Aid (CORDAID) and World Bank.

As per the City of Bulawayo's Rate Rebate Policy of 2009, a total of 806 (374M&436F) elderly people were assessed and awarded rate rebates during the year under review. The rate rebate policy is meant to provide rates relief to elderly citizens of the City.

The effective management and protection of the city's ecosystem and catchment area was achieved through the intensification of enforcement through raids, routine patrols by Council Rangers and joint operations conducted within Greater Bulawayo and Ncema catchment areas. To improve staff efficiency and effectiveness, 28 Rangers underwent training at Zimbabwe Institute of Wildlife Management at Masvingo and were issued with certificates after successfully completing the course.

Several educational campaigns and meetings were also conducted at ward level and in the media and helped teach residents against environmentally destructive activities such as sand and wood poaching and illegal gold panning which threaten the City's ecosystem. Similarly, joint operations were done with the Environmental Management Agency (EMA), Forestry Commission, Zimbabwe Republic Police - Minerals Fauna and Flora Unit (M.F.F.U) and Zimbabwe Parks and Wildlife Management.

During the period under review the City continued to experience a number of challenges some of which are as the follows:

- Lack of capital funding for planned maintenance continue to be a major setback as this inhibited Council from keeping its social infrastructure at a pristine state and useable.
- Inadequate supply of houses and stands in the City amid a ballooning housing waiting list.
- Hot seating in schools mainly situated in new suburbs continues to be predicament.
- Shortage of libraries mainly in new suburbs resulted in the reading public having to travel long distances to the nearest library
- Shortage of transport, machinery and equipment impacted negatively on timeous provision of service delivery.

In 2023 Council will focus on the rehabilitation of social support infrastructure and on completing the projects funded under Ward Retention Fund. The construction of ECD blocks in schools with the support of the various stakeholders in a bid to ensure access to quality education will be prioritised. Vulindlela Primary in Cowdray Park will continue receiving funds under Devolution Fund while titivation of parks and the greening for enhanced aesthetic city's environs will continue.

HUMAN CAPITAL

One of the major challenges faced by the City of Bulawayo is the ability to provide adequate staff for the City's services. Following authorisation of the City of Bulawayo's request to recruit by the parent Ministry, Council employed 157 employees in all categories in the year 2022, and further conducted various training programmes in a bid to improve service delivery in the City.

Various efforts were made to ensure gender and social inclusion in service delivery and programming. Council participated at the 2022 National Gender Summit, dubbed Zimbabwe SADC Protocol @ Work "Voice and Choice", which focused on the Gender Responsive budgeting and Bulawayo City Council received awards as outlined in the table below:

Category	Award	Name
Institutional Gender Responsive Budgeting in Local Government	Winner Metropolitan Overall Best Performance	Bulawayo City Council
Gender in Local Government Urban Hub	Runner Up Urban Overall Best Performance	Bulawayo City Council
Gender in Local Government Score Card	Silver Certificate	Bulawayo City Council

Despite hiring more employees, staffing levels across Council departments continue to be subdued especially the Nursing Staff and Fire Brigade Section. This was aggravated by the natural attrition which cannot be replaced immediately due to the need for the Ministerial approval. The major statistics in this regard for the period under review are as detailed below;

Death in Services	40
Normal Retirement	48
Resignations	<u>39</u>
Total	127

With the unpredictable economic environment, the City of Bulawayo expects to continue enjoying satisfactory level of industrial relations with its labour force. There is room for improvement to higher levels of employment relations.

TOWN PLANNING

The City of Bulawayo during the period under review focused on ensuring that the City reviews the Master Plan for the period 2019-2034. The Master Plan was prepared and was adopted by Council of the 6th October 2022. The finalised documents and maps have been submitted to the Minister for approval as of October 2022. A number of Local Development Plans were also reviewed and prepared in 2022. These sought to contribute to the process of the review of the Master Plan. The City reviewed the following;

- Local Plan Number 16 - became operative on 13 May 2022.
- **Local Development Plan No.8 (LDP NO. 8) – currently undergoing review.**
- **Ascot Local Subject Plan (LSP)** - An advert calling for Expressions of Interest for the preparation of a Local Subject Plan for Ascot was flighted and has since closed.
- **Local Subject Plan Suburbs** - The amendment of portion of Local Development Plan 5 (LDP5,) focusing on Suburbs now as Local Subject Plan on Suburbs started in October with household and traffic surveys.

The City of Bulawayo has also submitted and had a number of layouts approved. These include;

- **Umvumila Integrated layout** (area bounded by Glenville Drive, Richmond Township and Cowdray Park corridor) (247 industrial stands & 639 residential stands).
- **Norwood tracks phase 2-** comprises of 1500 residential stands.

Layouts awaiting approval are:

- **Killarney East-** comprises of 787 residential stands -The area is bounded by Bulawayo Drive and Harare road-currently awaiting Ministerial approval.
- **Highmount Phase 2:** (274 stands) - awaiting Ministerial approval.
- **Norwood Track Phase 2:** (2084stands) - awaiting Ministerial approval.

Layouts under preparation

- B2 of Bellevue comprising 509 Low Density Stands and 14 Residential Flat sites.

The City of Bulawayo had its first Local Environmental Action Plan in 2014. It was meant to span from 2014 to 2018. Due to Covid 19, LEAP could not be reviewed on time. The City held a

stakeholder consultation workshop for the review of LEAP on 10 November 2022. The review also looked at the preparation of LEAP for the period 2023-2027. The preparation of LEAP will commence in January 2023, and it is envisaged that the document will be prepared and be adopted by Council by April 2023.

As per government pronouncements on the start of COVID -19, intra city public transport was now provided by Zimbabwe United Passenger Company (ZUPCO). However, engagement with other stakeholders are being done now in preparation to the opening up of the public sector to other players.

In an endeavour to preserve sanity in the city's public transport, operators were relocated to the following designated termini's:

- City Hall
- Lobengula Street/3rd Avenue
- Lobengula Street/2nd Ave
- Lobengula Street between 12th Avenue/13th Avenue
- TM Hyper Rank
- Fife Street was re-opened for vehicular traffic
- A temporary rank was established along Lobengula Street and Fifth Avenue

Egodini Redevelopment

The redevelopment of Egodini was tendered out and awarded to Terracota Trading (Pvt) Limited. Terracota provided proof of finance at the time of tender to the tune of US\$59 599 480 and this was accompanied by supporting letters from a reputable bank from South Africa. The project is to be fully funded by the developer.

Terracota divided the project into phases, namely; Phase 1A, 1B, 2 and 3. The company is currently working on Phase 1A, which includes:

- Bus/Commuter rank
- Trader's stalls
- Public ablutions
- Offices/workshop
- Filling station
- Storage facilities



On completion Phase 1A is expected to have 1100 traders' stalls which will go a long way in the provision of trading spaces. This Phase will also cater for all local commuter transport plying the various routes within the City of Bulawayo, whilst intercity buses will be catered for in Phase 1B.

Servicing with sewer, water and storm drains is about 90% complete. Overall construction of structures in phase 1A is about 25% complete. Challenges that the developer has sighted as having delayed project implementation are the Covid -19 pandemic and erratic supply of materials.

The Valuation Roll was effected on 1 January 2012 and expired on 31 December 2021 Valid statutorily for 10 years. The Ministerial approval for the extension of the lifespan of the valuation roll by another 5 years is awaited. Council (04/05/2022) approved the strategy for the commencement of a new general revaluation exercise for year 2023.

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

For many years the City of Bulawayo has been considered as the biggest industrial hub not only in Zimbabwe, but in the SADC and COMESA region' hence the name 'Ko-Ntuthuziyathunqa', meaning the functioning industries. It is our desire to see Bulawayo reclaiming its past status as the industrial hub of note. The task ahead of us requires that government, Bulawayo residents, City Council and private sector work together for the development of the economy of this Great City.

Guided by our Corporate Strategy and vision to be a "A leading Smart Transformative City by year 2024", Council is committed to make the City of Bulawayo an essential component of a

functional economy and must speed up implementation of all the projects in our investment prospectus.

At the apex of the projects in the prospectus are solar projects to address the energy challenges in the City. Cabinet recently approved a 50 Megawatt Solar farm to be developed at Ncema, in order to ease power challenges at Bulawayo Water pumping station. The impact of the project is that the City will enjoy uninterrupted pumping, improved water delivery by approximately 50% and will see a reduction in pumping costs.

The City of Bulawayo is still embarking on an ambitious city re-development programme whose main thrust is to rebuild the city to allow it to achieve a Smart City Status.

Among the key objectives of this bold re-development initiative is the desire to set the city on a recovery path and make gigantic steps towards economic, physical and social growth while protecting the environment.

Creating new jobs, boosting revenues, providing adequate and affordable services, rebuilding infrastructure and building houses that are responsive to the socio-economic characteristics of Bulawayo's population, are also at the heart of the programme.

The City re-development initiative will see old suburbs such as Makokoba, Mzilikazi and other areas such as Ascot Race Course being transformed into first world suburbs and shopping malls.

As we start the New Year, one of the strategies is to revive the economy of Bulawayo by developing, growing and promoting the Small to Medium Enterprises (SMEs). This sector is fast-growing in most cities in the country, and in Bulawayo, the SMEs sector is contributing significantly to the economy in terms of employment and making sure that certain key products are available for the consumers. Council together with partners is developing smart trading areas or market places for SMEs near Nkulumane Shopping Complex.

During the year 2022, the City launched the reintroduction of Cycling Culture. The programme is aimed at reducing congestion, reducing carbon emission, availing low transport costs, health benefits, as well allowing visitors to curate their experiences through visiting heritage sites in and round the City. In 2023 the City will launch new projects to boost the tourism sector in the City.

The City of Bulawayo is grateful to its partners and residents for their unwavering support and commitment to a smart and inclusive City.

Together we can do more

Masiye Phambili

SIYABONGA.

COUNCILLOR SOLOMON MGUNI

MAYOR